

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of forming a joint between a first body and a second body comprising the steps of:

applying a slurry to a tapered area of a first body of ceramic;

applying the slurry to a tapered area of a second body of ceramic;

aligning the tapered area of the first body with the tapered area of the second body so they are in contact; and

heating the first body and the second body with the slurry in the range from 850 degrees centigrade up to 1400 degrees centigrade which forms a joint.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 9 wherein the applying the slurry step includes the step of applying a slurry of silicon carbide powder

having a particle size between 20 nanometers and 35 microns to the first body made of silicon carbide.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method as described in Claim 10 wherein the applying the slurry step includes the step of applying ~~[[the]]~~ a slurry of silicon carbide powder having at least two distinct particle sizes.